UNITED
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A/C.5/50/L.4
7 November 1995

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

Fiftieth session
Agenda item 119

PATTERN OF CONFERENCES

United States of America: draft resolution

Reduction of paperwork

General Assembly,

Having considered the information presented by the representative of the Secretary-General to the Fifth Committee in October 1995 on the costs and waste associated with the increasing volume of documentation,

Recognizing that Member States contribute directly to this volume of documentation through their requests for reports and that they can reduce the costs and waste associated with the production of United Nations documents through increased restraint in making such requests,

Recognizing also that the increase in the demand for and volume of documentation has had a negative effect on the quality and timeliness of reports,

Noting that Economic and Social Council decision 1995/222 of 5 May 1995, entitled "Documentation", requires Secretariat accountability regarding seriously tardy reports,

Noting also that some actions taken by the Committee on Conferences, the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space and the First Committee of the General Assembly can result in lower documentation costs,

1. Decides:

(a) That documents originating in the Secretariat for submission to the General Assembly or its subsidiary bodies should not exceed sixteen pages in length, except when the Secretary-General certifies that a document represents a

special case warranting reporting at greater length, such as a non-recurrent comprehensive report on an issue not routinely addressed, and that the production of addenda to documents should be strictly limited to that which is requested in the legislative mandate;

(b) That documents originating in the General Assembly or its subsidiary bodies should not exceed twenty-four pages in length, except when the Secretary-General certifies that a document represents a special case warranting reporting at greater length, such as a non-recurrent comprehensive report on an issue not routinely addressed, and that the production of addenda to documents should be strictly limited to that which is requested in the legislative mandate;

(c) That reports should not include descriptions of the history of the subject that are contained in other documents, but rather make reference to those other documents, and should not include a narrative of substantive discussions;

2. Requests the Secretary-General to ensure that documentation is available in accordance with the six-week rule for the distribution of documents, in each of the six official languages of the United Nations;

3. Decides that, should a report normally bound by the six-week rule be issued shortly before or on the same day that the relevant item or segment is to be considered, the officer responsible for the introduction of the report should be accountable to that intergovernmental session, that is, should give the reasons for the delay;

4. Requests the President of the General Assembly:

(a) To ask all the Chairmen of the Main Committees of the Assembly to encourage all members to exercise restraint in making proposals containing requests for new reports and to consider biennializing or triennializing resolutions that require production of reports;

(b) To encourage all Main Committees to become aware of changes instituted in the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, the Committee on Conferences and the First Committee of the Assembly with regard to reducing documentation costs;

5. Requests the Secretary-General:

(a) To present oral rather than written reports where appropriate, in particular in the case of progress reports and procedural and organizational issues;

(b) To submit consolidated reports on related topics under a single item or sub-item where appropriate and cost-effective;

(c) To provide an oral estimate of the cost of any document or report requested by Member States when an intergovernmental body adopts a resolution containing such a request;

(d) To seek a more reader-friendly and uniform format of reports similar to that used in the preparation of the fascicles of the report from the Committee for Programme and Coordination and the reports for the sessions of the Executive Board of the United Nations Development Programme;

6. Also requests the Secretary-General to take steps to promote expanded use by Member States of optical disk equipment in order to reduce copying and distribution costs;

7. Endorses the recommendation made by the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions that the Joint Inspection Unit conduct a comprehensive evaluation of the publications activity of organizations of the United Nations system, including, inter alia, an analysis of the extent to which publications are used by Member States and the cost-effectiveness with which publications are produced;

8. Requests the Secretary-General to present to it at its fifty-first session an oral report on the savings resulting from these measures.

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Agenda item 122 (a)

FINANCING OF THE UNITED NATIONS PEACE-KEEPING FORCES IN THE MIDDLE EAST: UNITED NATIONS DISENGAGEMENT OBSERVER FORCE

Draft resolution submitted by the Chairman following informal consultations

The General Assembly,

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General on the financing of the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force 1/ and the related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions, 2/

Bearing in mind Security Council resolution 350 (1974) of 31 May 1974, by which the Council established the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force, and the subsequent resolutions by which the Council extended the mandate of the Force, the latest of which was resolution 996 (1995) of 30 May 1995,

Recalling its resolution 3211 B (XXIX) of 29 November 1974 on the financing of the United Nations Emergency Force and the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force, and its subsequent resolutions thereon, the latest of which was resolution 49/225 of 23 December 1994, and its decision 49/413 B of 12 July 1995,

Reaffirming that the costs of the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force are expenses of the Organization to be borne by Member States in accordance with Article 17, paragraph 2, of the Charter of the United Nations,

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1/ A/50/386 and Corr.1.

2/ A/50/694.

Recalling its previous decisions regarding the fact that, in order to meet the expenditures caused by the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force, a different procedure is required from the one applied to meet expenditures of the regular budget of the United Nations,

Taking into account the fact that the economically more developed countries are in a position to make relatively larger contributions and that the economically less developed countries have a relatively limited capacity to contribute towards such operations,

Bearing in mind the special responsibilities of the States permanent members of the Security Council, as indicated in General Assembly resolution 1874 (S-IV) of 27 June 1963, in the financing of such operations,

Mindful of the fact that it is essential to provide the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force with the necessary financial resources to enable it to fulfil its responsibilities under the relevant resolutions of the Security Council,

Concerned that the Secretary-General continues to face difficulties in meeting the obligations of the Force on a current basis, including reimbursement to current and former troop-contributing States,

Concerned also that the surplus balances in the Suspense Account for the Force have been used to meet expenses of the Force in order to compensate for the lack of income resulting from non-payment and late payment by Member States of their contributions,

1. Takes note of the status of contributions to the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force as at 31 October 1995, including the contributions unpaid in the amount of 64,565,741 United States dollars, representing 6 per cent of the total assessed contributions from the inception of the Force to the period ending on 30 November 1995, notes that some 30 per cent of the membership has paid its assessed contributions in full, and urges all other Member States concerned, particularly those in arrears, to ensure the payment of their outstanding assessed contributions;

2. Expresses its concern about the financial situation with regard to peace-keeping activities, particularly in respect of the reimbursement of troop contributors, which is the result of overdue payment by Member States of their assessments;

3. Urges all Member States to make every possible effort to ensure the payment of their assessed contributions to the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force promptly and in full;

4. Endorses the observations and recommendations contained in the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions; 2/

5. Requests the Secretary-General to take all necessary action to ensure that the Force is administered with a maximum of efficiency and economy;

6. Decides to appropriate to the Special Account for the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force the amount of 16,065,498 dollars gross (15,564,000 dollars net), authorized and apportioned by the General Assembly in paragraph 11 of its resolution 49/225 for the operation of the Force for the period from 1 June to 30 November 1995, inclusive;

7. Authorizes the Secretary-General to enter into commitments for the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force at a rate not to exceed 2,679,000 dollars gross (2,603,000 dollars net) per month for a period up to seven months from 1 December 1995, should the Security Council decide to continue the Force beyond the period of six months authorized under its resolution 996 (1995), the said amount to be apportioned among Member States in accordance with the scheme set out in the present resolution;

8. Decides, as an ad hoc arrangement, to apportion the amount referred to in paragraph 7 above among Member States in accordance with the composition of groups set out in paragraphs 3 and 4 of General Assembly resolution 43/232 of 1 March 1989, as adjusted by the Assembly in its resolutions 44/192 B of 21 December 1989, 45/269 of 27 August 1991, 46/198 A of 20 December 1991 and 47/218 A of 23 December 1992 and its decision 48/472 A of 23 December 1993, and taking into account the scale of assessments for the years 1995 and 1996, 3/ subject to the decision of the Security Council to extend the mandate of the Force beyond 30 November 1995 and the mandate periods to be decided upon by the Council;

9. Decides also that, in accordance with the provisions of its resolution 973 (X) of 15 December 1955, there shall be set off against the apportionment among Member States, as provided for in paragraph 8 above, their respective share in the Tax Equalization Fund of the estimated staff assessment income of 532,000 dollars approved for the period from 1 December 1995 to 30 June 1996, inclusive;

10. Decides further that there shall be set off against the apportionment among Member States, as provided for in paragraph 8 above, their respective share in the estimated other income of 9,000 dollars approved for the period from 1 December 1995 to 30 June 1996, inclusive;

11. Decides that there shall be set off against the apportionment among Member States, as provided for in paragraph 8 above, their respective share in the unencumbered balance of 805,000 dollars gross (891,000 dollars net) for the period from 1 December 1993 to 30 November 1994, inclusive, pursuant to General Assembly decision 49/413 B;

12. Invites voluntary contributions to the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force in cash and in the form of services and supplies acceptable to the Secretary-General, to be administered, as appropriate, in accordance with the procedure established by the General Assembly in its resolutions 43/230 of 21 December 1988, 44/192 A of 21 December 1989 and 45/258 of 3 May 1991;

3/ See resolution 49/19 B.

13. Decides to keep, under the item entitled "Financing of the United Nations peace-keeping forces in the Middle East", the sub-item entitled "United Nations Disengagement Observer Force" under review during its fiftieth session.

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Agenda item 128

FINANCING OF THE UNITED NATIONS PROTECTION FORCE, THE UNITED NATIONS CONFIDENCE RESTORATION OPERATION IN CROATIA, THE UNITED NATIONS PREVENTIVE DEPLOYMENT FORCE AND THE UNITED NATIONS PEACE FORCES HEADQUARTERS

Draft decision submitted by the Chairman following informal consultations

The General Assembly decides, on an exceptional basis, to authorize the Secretary-General to enter into commitments for the operation of the combined forces for the period from 1 to 31 December 1995 in the amount of 115,373,000 United States dollars gross (113,866,300 dollars net), subject to the decision of the Security Council to continue the forces beyond 30 November 1995.

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FIFTH COMMITTEE
Agenda item 133

FINANCING OF THE UNITED NATIONS MISSION IN HAITI

Draft decision submitted by the Chairman
following informal consultations

The General Assembly, decides, on an exceptional basis, to authorize the Secretary-General to enter into commitments for the operation of the United Nations Mission in Haiti for the period from 1 to 15 December 1995 in the amount of 10,601,120 United States dollars gross (10,420,020 dollars net).

95-38010 (E) 301195 011295